

AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 9, with the following:

During operation, the control processor communicates with each NP 343 using a control messaging protocol [[269]]. Software architecture of NP low level and external APIs 323 and 301 supports bridging, routing, ATM, and multi-layer switching. The initialization phase of network processor 343 sets up the registers and memory regions of the processor chip and loads the code for GCH 375. GCH 375 prepares the chip to begin handling frames. To implement this, pico-code, which contains the code instructions used to forward each incoming frame, is loaded into the chip.